



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2002

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
State and the Judiciary
US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
State and the Judiciary
1016 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Serrano:

We are writing to ask for your strong continuing support for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) and to ask that it be funded at \$750 million in Fiscal Year 2003.

Securing our nation's borders falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government, yet it is state and local governments who must bear the costs when undocumented aliens commit state or local crimes. SCAAP recognizes that the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens is a federal responsibility.

California has the largest population of incarcerated undocumented aliens. As a result, California state and local governments incur greater costs than any other jurisdictions. In fact, over the past several years, the cost to qualifying jurisdictions has exceeded reimbursement by hundreds of millions of dollars.

Following the events of September 11, strong partnership between Federal, State and local law enforcement entities is crucial. Without adequate SCAAP funding, state and local law enforcement will be forced to divert already limited resources from other important state and local crime control and prevention programs, as well as the increasing financial obligations brought on by the war on terrorism.

Again, thank you for your efforts with regard to SCAAP funding. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that reimbursement of these costs remains a federal priority.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee

Lynn C. Walsey

Shane E. Watson

Xenia Capps

Susan R. Davis

~~James H. Miller~~ ~~James H. Miller~~

Ken Cloud

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